



United States Department  
of Agriculture

National Agricultural  
Statistics Service

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# Washington Crop Weather

Released: February 5, 2007  
Week Ending: January 2007  
CWP WA-CW0207

## COUNTY COMMENTS

### Western

**Grays Harbor:** Most agricultural producers continued to cleanup storm debris on their farms from the December 14, 2006 windstorm. Snow accumulations in early January lasted over a week due to unseasonably cold temperatures. This resulted in increased feeding for livestock. Hay continued to be in very short supply. A drying trend at the end of the month has brought river levels to unseasonably low levels. Christmas tree growers were cleaning harvested fields in preparation for planting.

**Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific:** The main weather feature for January was a cold snap during the middle of the month, which included snow in all areas, including the ocean beaches. Snowfall was generally only a few inches, but because of the cold conditions, snow covered the ground in many areas for about a week. Many are hopeful the cold snap will have a detrimental impact on harmful insects. At this time, there is no known adverse impact on perennial crops or fall seeded annuals.

**Mason:** Between the heavy rains and snow in December, 2006 and January, 2007, there was little time for outside work. Area producers pruned in the rare intervals of decent weather and scrambled to keep up with defrosting water pipes for livestock, spreading manure and just keeping animals well fed and comfortable. January precipitation was 8.75 inches total, the last week being dry and really lovely weather. There were several cold nights below 20 degrees.

**Pacific:** Cold and wet conditions limited fieldwork activities for most producers. Oyster growers continued harvest operations for one of the best market seasons in the last ten years. Production declines in other areas of the country have created supply shortages, leading to increased market price for shucked and half shell oysters. Raspberry and cranberry producers continued pruning and weed control operations.

**Pierce/King:** Crop conditions were normal for this time of year. Some producers needed hay for their livestock because of the cold weather and flooding. No report of crop damage due to a weather related event.

**Skagit/Island/San Juan:** The weather during the month of January was varied. There were days of snow and ice, rain, sun, wind and freezing temperatures. To date no damage to crops has been reported. Farmers were assessing crop losses due to cold temperatures as well as excessive moisture that took place in December, 2006 and early January, 2007.

**Snohomish/King:** There was snow on the ground and cold temperatures early in the month. Temperatures were down to 16 degrees in some areas. Mostly cold weather continued through the month with a few spring-like breaks in temperatures. Standing water (or ice) was found in many lowland fields. The ground was frozen for most of month.

**Thurston:** Most agricultural producers faced additional challenges throughout the month due to unseasonably cold temperatures. Snow accumulations lasted over a week early in the month resulting in the need for increased hay for livestock. As a result, hay is now in very short supply. Digging and harvesting of conifer seedlings was delayed several times throughout the month due to frozen soils. The majority of agricultural producers continued clean-up operations on their farms from the wind storms and snow accumulation early in January. Agricultural producers welcomed a drying trend near the end of the month which brought colder than normal temperatures.

**Thurston (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Very wet weather since November, 2006. Feedlots were muddy. There had been some recent drying, but there was too much rain during November and December of 2006.

## Central

**Chelan:** Winter orchard work mostly consisted of pruning. Work on some days has been slowed by cold weather.

**Chelan/Douglas:** Fruit producers were pruning their orchards. The beginning of the month of January started off with warmer than normal temperatures. As the month progressed, temperatures dropped. On January 7th and 9th, record winds were experienced. Damage to agricultural buildings, fencing and especially fruit trees was extensive in the Wenatchee Heights area of Chelan County. Other areas in both counties suffered damage. A disaster designation is being requested.

**Franklin:** There were about 15 days suitable for field work. The days that were not suitable would have been considered too wet, muddy and/or the ground was too frozen. There were a few days in the middle of January with above average precipitation. Freezing, thawing and rain caused some minor gully erosion in the dryland country. There was little fieldwork conducted other than a little mowing and harrowing work in Conservation Reserve Program fields. There was one day in early January when high winds did some minor damage to farm buildings and irrigation systems (wheel lines).

**Grant:** Stands of dry land winter wheat acreage went into the winter months looking very good. There were reports received of damage to late standing dry corn acreage from extreme high winds which occurred during December 2006. Hay supplies were getting tight, with above average prices being paid for feeder hay. Most producers were very optimistic about the future of agriculture, with commodity prices for major grain crops at high levels.

**Kittitas:** The area had frozen snow-covered fields. Hay growers planned for spring fertilization and meadow vole control once the snow melts. Many livestock producers began the calving season, which will be ramping up through February. Conditions were relatively dry, and good for feeding hay on top of snow. February will bring melting conditions and mud.

**Yakima:** Average temperatures varied from 14 degrees below normal to 14 degrees above normal, with 0.30 of an inch of precipitation. No crop damage due to weather conditions was reported.

## Eastern

**Adams:** January was mostly cold with below normal precipitation levels. There was a short stretch mid-month when overnight temperatures plunged below zero, but the consensus to date was that winter wheat crops escaped damage due to lack of accompanying winds.

**Adams/Lincoln:** Frozen soil conditions created moisture runoff. Overall soil moisture conditions remained adequate and the winter wheat crop was in pretty good condition.

**Asotin/Garfield:** January was slightly colder than normal and in many areas drier than normal. Snow cover protected the winter wheat crop for the first half of January. However, the snow melted and the ground has been bare since. It will be spring before producers will be able to tell if there has been substantial winter freeze out.

**Ferry:** One to two feet of snow lay on the ground and temperatures were as low as -4 degrees.

**Ferry/Okanogan:** Orchardists were in the process of pruning. Calving season started for cattlemen. The beginning of January was warmer than normal and late month weather brought windy and cold conditions.

**Pend Oreille/Spokane:** The month of January was normal. We had some snow, rain, warm weather and very cold weather. Damage to any crops was unknown but most indications are that they have wintered pretty good. Hay for feed was very tight and becoming more expensive as time passed. Cattle were wintering well and calves were starting to be dropped.

**Stevens:** January was cold with plentiful snowfall. The local hay supply was exhausted, forcing those without hay to truck it in from other areas. Calving is beginning on some cattle operations.

**Walla Walla:** The weather was cold with some precipitation early in month. Conditions were cold and foggy, with some freezing fog. Crops remained dormant but appeared to be in good condition.

**Walla Walla (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** The weather was cold and foggy increasing winter feeding. Area producers attended winter meetings.

**Whitman:** Bitter cold temperatures at the start of the month carried through most of January with some moderation. However, overnight temperatures were normally below freezing all month. Rain and snowfall was close to normal for the month.

For the Period: Monday January 1, 2007  
 To: Wednesday January 31, 2007

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION			HDD TOT	HDD DFN	DAYS OF	
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS			32 COLD	28 COLD
WEST											
Bellingham	54	10	37	-2	4.69	-0.02	17	869	+18	16	9
Everett	55	19	38	-2	3.04	-1.45	18	831	+27	12	5
Hoquiam	57	25	42	+1	8.10	-1.62	19	691	-14	10	3
Kelso	54	18	37	-3	5.35	-1.36	16	860	+52	17	12
Olympia	56	12	37	-2	6.14	-1.87	17	874	+37	16	13
Seattle-Tacoma	56	19	38	-3	6.22	+0.84	15	821	+49	12	9
Shelton	55	13	37	-3	9.79	-0.60	18	867	+80	19	11
Tacoma	58	14	36	-4	5.57	-0.22	17	875	+80	18	14
Vancouver	57	16	37	-2	3.38	-2.67	15	848	+13	21	11
CENTRAL											
Ellensburg	43	5	26	+1	0.29	-0.96	10	1193	-25	28	27
Omak	52	-4	23	+0	0.10	-1.35	4	1308	-14	31	27
Stampede Pass	50	7	27	+4	16.65	+2.96	15	1161	-112	31	27
Wenatchee	50	4	26	-2	0.18	-0.95	4	1202	+26	30	28
Yakima	56	5	29	-2	0.30	-0.91	4	1126	+30	29	27
NORTHEAST											
Colville	48	-5	25	+1	0.93	-1.45	11	1234	-14	31	27
Deer Park	44	-11	24	-3	1.16	-0.74	13	1278	+53	30	29
Republic	40	-11	22	-1	0.40	-1.05	6	1339	+9	30	29
Spokane	47	-9	24	-3	0.64	-1.34	11	1257	+79	29	28
EAST CENTRAL											
Ephrata	50	4	26	-2	0.26	-0.54	5	1211	+36	28	27
Moses Lake	54	2	26	-2	0.14	-0.66	5	1195	+20	30	25
Quincy	50	2	26	-2	0.09	-0.75	3	1198	+17	30	27
Ritzville	51	3	26	-3	0.56	-0.61	10	1215	+54	30	26
SOUTHEAST											
Hanford	58	4	30	-5	0.13	-0.65	3	1090	+104	28	22
Pasco	58	5	31	-3	0.39	-0.64	4	1055	+65	26	18
Pullman	50	-7	27	-3	2.16	-0.57	12	1180	+52	26	20
Walla Walla	60	8	32	-3	1.44	-0.85	6	1014	+55	25	17
Whitman Mission	59	6	31	-3	0.45	-1.14	8	1056	+69	28	22
IDAHO											
IDAHO PANHANDLE											
Coeur D'Alene	50	-9	27	-4	1.05	-2.42	9	1185	+94	28	24
Lewiston ID	58	3	32	-2	0.14	-1.14	7	1002	+29	21	13

National weather summary: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/waobr/weather/2006/summary/weth1606.pdf>  
 Washington Agricultural Statistics Service website: [http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics\\_by\\_State/Washington](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Washington)  
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Summary based on Preliminary NWS data.  
 DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).  
 Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.  
 Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.  
 HDD = Heating Degree Days (Base 65).  
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